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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. [REDACTED]

Soviet interference in the administration of justice has become quite open and extreme, especially when Russian interests are involved in dispute. Interference with the pronouncement of sentences is very common.

2. Owing to the fact that defendants who have been acquitted by a civil or criminal court are frequently seized by the MVD and thrown into concentration camps, German judges have resumed a practice which was sometimes followed in Nazi times. Defendants who appear innocent of the charges with which they have been charged are nevertheless found guilty and given a light sentence. Thus, a short stay in a German prison frequently prevents their incarceration in a Russian concentration camp. If it is felt after several weeks that the MVD might still be interested, prisoners often elect to remain in prison after their terms have expired in order to escape seizure.

3. The Russian authorities frequently put so much pressure on attorneys for the defense that lawyers now find it healthier to steer clear of cases involving Russian interests. This is especially so in Mecklenburg. Judges, too, find it difficult to exercise their calling and frequently abandon the bench to resume ordinary legal practices. Thus, with many experienced judges disqualified by denazification regulations, and others leaving in disgust, the bench in the Russian Zone is gradually becoming filled with untrained amateurs.

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